

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3709

S E C R E T KINGSTON 0107

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, JM

SUBJ: BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS SITREP 4

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE JAMAICAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, VIVIAN BLAKE, GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE GOVT'S INTENTION TO RE-NEGOTIATE MAJOR TRADING AGREEMENTS IS NOT A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRINCIPLE OF HONORING CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS. HE SAID THE BAUXITE COMPANIES AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE HARSH ECONOMIC REALITIES OF THE TIMES CALLED FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS TO BE OPENED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY.

2. SPEAKING IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, JAMAICA'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, P.J. PATTERSON, SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD BE ASKING FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED BENEFITS FROM THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY, ACCORDING TO THE JAMAICAN PRESS. PATTERSON REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO STATE WHETHER JAMAICA'S DEMANDS FROM THE BAUXITE COMPANIES WOULD BE AS STEEP AS THE ARAB OIL INCREASE. PATTERSON ALSO SAID THAT JAMAICA WAS SEEKING TO COORDINATE ITS BAUXITE POLICY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD. HE SAID THAT JAMAICA IS DETERMINED TO PURSUE A THIRD WORLD STRATEGY AND IS INTENSIFYING LINKS WITH SURINAM. HE SAID THAT BOTH JAMAICA AND GUYANA ARE USING DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO SECURE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES.

3. ALCOA'S WASHBURN TOLD CHARGE YESTERDAY THAT LAST FRIDAY'S MEETING WAS SECRET

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ING OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL INCLUDED A SHARP EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND RICHARD FLETCHER ON THE ONE HAND, AND ALLAN ISAACS AND ARTHUR BROWN ON THE OTHER, OVER THE ISSUE OF PROPOSED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO BAUXITE LANDS, WITH MANLEY

AND FLETCHER TAKING THE MORE EXTREME POSITION THAT THE GOVT SHOULD
RESUME CONTROL OF ALL BAUXITE LANDS. HOWEVER WASHBURN AGREED
THAT THE GOVT'S FIRST PRIORITY IS INCREASED REVENUES FROM THE IND-
USTRY AND INDICATED A PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE INDUSTRY COULD
AFFORD TO PROVIDE REVENUES SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
50 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY ABOVE AND BEYOND CURRENT LEVELS.
HEWITT

SECRET

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